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general direction of the meteorologic and magnetic observations in the Russian empire could not, we feel assured, be placed in better hands.

We cannot, however, close this brief notice without expressing our admiration of the zeal with which the Russian government encourages the investigations of mathematical and physical science. The munificent grants of money, and the assistance of every kind afforded by the emperor for scientific objects, are worthy of a great sovereign, and justly entitle him to the gratitude of all those who, like ourselves, cultivate knowledge as a means of happiness ; and we sincerely hope that the joint labours of Russia and England in the field of meteorologic and magnetic research will, from the vast extent of their respective possessions, and the acknowledged ability of their observers, be soon rewarded by a rich harvest of important discoveries.

III.—*Reisebeschreibung nach Arabien und andern umliegenden Ländern.* VON CARSTEN NIEBUHR. 3d band. Hamburg. 1837. 4to.

[*Carsten Niebuhr's Narrative of a Journey to Arabia and other contiguous Countries.* Third vol.] Communicated by the Rev. G. C. RENOARD, M.R.A.S.

OF all the acts of royal munificence which have a just claim to the gratitude of mankind, none surely can rank higher than those which are calculated to advance knowledge and promote a friendly intercourse between distant nations. Much of the glory reflected on our own country, and on other European nations, in the most brilliant epochs of their history, is due to the patronage afforded by their sovereigns to expeditions despatched for the purpose of discovering unknown regions ; but the moral and scientific value of most of those expeditions was tarnished by one deteriorating ingredient which entered too largely into the motives of their patrons. The lust of wealth and dominion was too plainly the leading principle in the councils of the monarchs who aided Columbus and Gama. Nor was it till the middle of the last century, that Denmark gave the noble example of sending out, at the national expense, a body of travellers for the sole purpose of pursuing scientific inquiries. Frederick V., probably at the suggestion of his excellent minister, Count von Bernstorff, and with the assistance of the celebrated Michaelis, to whom the selection of the persons to be employed was in a great measure left, despatched four young men duly prepared, on a mission to Constantinople, Egypt, and Arabia, for the purpose of ob-

taining accurate information respecting the geography, climate, and natural productions of those countries, as well as of the languages and condition, moral and physical, of their inhabitants, especially with a view to the elucidation of the Scriptures of the Old Testament. Having received their instructions at the close of 1760, the travellers set sail for Smyrna on the 7th of January, 1761, and Carsten Niebuhr, the only survivor, for his four companions, the draughtsman, physician, linguist, and naturalist, all sunk under the influence of the climate not long after their arrival in Arabia, reached Copenhagen at his return on the 20th of November, 1767. His description of Arabia, published in 1772; the first volume of his travels printed in 1774; the observations relative to botany and other parts of natural history, made by Professor Peter Forskål, together with plates illustrative of them, edited by Niebuhr, in 1775; and finally, the second volume of the travels in 1778, fully justified the choice of Michaelis; nor did any of the travellers appear more deserving of approbation than Niebuhr himself. Though the first two volumes comprehended the largest and most important part of his travels, yet a third still remained which was to give an account of his journey through Syria and Asia Minor in his return homewards. This volume, by which the work is completed, appears to have been ready for publication in 1779; but its appearance was retarded by various untoward circumstances, so that all hope of its publication seems to have been abandoned, till about two years ago, proposals for printing it were circulated by M. Perthes of Hamburg; and it is to the liberality of that bookseller, as well as to the affection of Niebuhr's family, particularly of his daughter, that the admirers of her father's works have at length the satisfaction of accompanying him to the end of his long pilgrimage.

The present volume is divided into five sections or chapters, containing the traveller's remarks on Aleppo; his voyage to Cyprus, and thence to Jaffa and Jerusalem; his observations on those places; his return to Aleppo, and journey from thence through Kóniyeh to Constantinople; geographical information collected in his passage through Asia Minor, and an abridged account of his route through Bulgaria, Vallachia, Moldavia, Poland, and Germany, to Denmark.

The last section has been very judiciously shortened by the editors, as much of the ground passed over is not only well known, but has been sufficiently described by later travellers; and as this portion of the author's narrative does not supply matter enough for a volume of nearly the same thickness as the preceding ones, there are added, in the form of an appendix, several valuable tracts relating to the nations and antiquities of Western

Asia and Abyssinia, drawn up by Niebuhr, together with the astronomical data of the celestial observations made during his journey. For the republication of all of these, particularly the latter, the literary world is much indebted to the Editors, as it is always desirable to have the works of an eminent writer collected, and few persons have an entire command of the various periodical publications through which these papers are scattered. That is particularly the case in this country, where the 'Monthly Astronomical Correspondence' of the late Baron von Zach is not easily met with. So little have the Editors of the present volume been influenced by any undue desire of augmenting its bulk, that no less than ten papers contributed by Niebuhr to the 'German Museum,' between the years 1781 and 1791, have been omitted, though most, if not all of them, would still be read with interest.

The description of Aleppo and Antioch, the account of their inhabitants and commerce, and the remarks on the antiquities and condition of Cyprus, contained in the first section, are very deserving of notice, particularly the observations on Citium* (pp. 21-25); and the amusing anecdotes respecting that extraordinary son of an extraordinary mother, Edward Wortley Montagu (p. 29). From Jerusalem, Niebuhr returned to Jaffa, and went on by sea to 'Accá (Acre) and Šaidá (Sidon), making an excursion from that place to Damascus, having to his surprise and satisfaction, met with, at least, one country in Asia in which an armed escort was not wanted (p. 82). From Šaidá he proceeded by sea to Ládhiḳiyah (Laodicea), stopping by the way at Tripoli only long enough to take the altitude of some stars (p. 92), as he was anxious to meet M. van Masseyk, the Dutch Consul at Aleppo, at Ládhiḳiyah, from whom he was sure of receiving much valuable information. There he was detained some weeks, waiting for the departure of a caravan, and had thus leisure to extend his inquiries respecting Syria, and to revise his plans and routes.

As his road northwards lay through Bayás and Adeneh, he not only passed through a tract little known, but was able to make a plan of that town, as well as of Ḳóniyah, the ancient Iconium. These plans, though not minutely exact, are valuable as expressing relative bearings; and in that respect the slight sketch of Jerusalem given by Niebuhr (Tab. iv. p. 52) may be of service when compared with the elaborate plan published by Mr. Catherwood. In his route from Ḳóniyah to Constantinople, Niebuhr

* Now called Chitium, which is pronounced Shiti by the modern Greeks. Niebuhr does not seem to have been aware that Shiti (Chiti) is identical with Chitium; or that the inscriptions copied by him (tab. iii. p. 22) are quite different from those published by Pococke (*Descript. of the East*, ii., tab. xxxii.), and interpreted by Gesenius (*Scripturæ Phœnicæ Monumenta*, p. 122, tab. 11, 12).

passed through two remarkable places, one of which has seldom been visited by other European travellers; viz., Kútáhiyah, the ancient Cotyæum, remarkable in modern times as the centre of the tract where the carpets are manufactured, which, for wear and colour, have not yet been equalled by our own: the other place is Afiyûm-karâ-hişâr (Opium-black-castle), so long erroneously supposed to be on the site of Apamea Cibotus, which stood near the confluence of the Marsyas and Meander. D'Anville (*Geogr. Ancienne*, ii. 53), with whom this error originated, seems in this, as in some other cases, to have been misled by an apparent resemblance between the ancient and modern names.

Niebuhr's observations on the government and condition of Moldavia and Wallachia, are still worth reading, notwithstanding the great political changes experienced in those principalities within the last few years, in consequence of the Sultán's ill-judged attempt to resist the overwhelming power of Russia. The peculiarities and affinities of the Wallachian language did not escape the notice of Niebuhr, and the information he gives will be new, at least, to most of his English readers, so little is known in this country respecting that remarkable monument of the Roman dominion in Dacia, and of the amalgamation of the Latin and Slavonian languages.

The astronomical data given in the appendix have long been known to all geographers who could make use of the Baron von Zach's work. They, with a few others found among M. Niebuhr's papers, are here reprinted with the corrections and reductions of M. von Zach and Professor Bürg, which greatly enhances their value, as they are thus made immediately applicable in practical geography. Of the remaining papers, which all have merit, the most remarkable are a dissertation on the Noṣāirís, a singularly fanatical sect, who are numerous in the northern mountains of Syria (iii.); some observations on the exposed position of the temple at Jerusalem, and its liability to suffer from tempests (iv.); and memoranda respecting Abyssinia, which were collected at Cāiro in 1762, about six years before Bruce visited that country (vi.). "This paper deserves to be compared," say the editors, Messrs. Gloyer and Olshausen, "with the author's review of the two first volumes of Bruce's *Travels*, printed in the German Museum for June, 1791." The illustrations of Xenophon's *Anabasis* (v.), drawn up during Niebuhr's stay at Brusa, have been in great measure superseded by Major Rennell's able work, and the more extensive observations of modern travellers, some of the most important of which, however, have not yet been published.
